

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending in this application, with claim 1 being the only independent claim. Claims 1-4 have been amended. Claims 5 and 6 has been added. The amendments to claims 2-4 clarify the wording of the claims, and are cosmetic in nature. Support for the amendment to claim 1 may be found, for example, at pg. 4, lines 28-34 of the specification as originally filed. Support for new claim 6 is found at page 4, lines 25-29 of the specification as originally filed. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,530,757 ("*Soyer*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,622,273 ("*Kelly*"). For the following reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite the limitation "a plug arranged in the receiving device, the plug having electrical contacts for connecting an electric motor of the fuel pump to a mains supply and an integrally formed, circumferential sealing lip which seals the plug against the connecting piece when fuel is conveyed through the fuel pump, the plug being extrusion-coated with plastic". Support for the amendment to claim 1 may be found, for example, in FIG. 3 and at pg. 4, lines 28-34 of the specification as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 1 is patentable over *Soyer* in view of *Kelly* because the combination of *Soyer* and *Kelly* fails to teach or suggest the above-quoted limitation of amended claim 1. In particular, the combination of *Soyer* and *Kelly* fails to teach or suggest a plug arranged in the receiving device, the plug having electrical contacts for connecting an electric motor of the fuel pump to a mains supply and an integrally formed, circumferential

sealing lip which seals the plug against the connecting piece when fuel is conveyed through the fuel pump.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges that *Soyer* fails to teach or suggest a “circumferential sealing lip (38) integrally formed on the plug”. *Kelly* has been cited to provide this feature. However, the combination of *Soyer* and *Kelly* fails to teach or suggest a connection piece for a fuel pump that includes the plug as now recited in amended independent claim 1. That is, *Soyer* and *Kelly*, individually or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the limitation “a plug arranged in the receiving device, the plug having electrical contacts for connecting an electric motor of the fuel pump to a mains supply and an integrally formed, circumferential sealing lip which seals the plug against the connecting piece when fuel is conveyed through the fuel pump, the plug being extrusion-coated with plastic”, as now expressly recited in amended claim 1.

Soyer discloses a feed pump 1 with contacts 3, 4. The contacts are separately led through the connection cap 5, as shown in FIG. 2 of *Soyer*. There is nothing in *Soyer* to teach or suggest that these contacts should be arranged on a plastic plug and that the plastic plug should be sealed against the connection cap. However, a core aspect of the claimed invention is directed to sealing a plug against a connection piece. *Soyer* is silent with respect to providing a seal that would achieve such a effect. Indeed, *Soyer* teaches an arrangement in which the contacts 3, 4 are directly inserted into the connection cap 5, without any sort of seal whatsoever.

Kelly disclose a snap-fit plastic closure for a beverage container which includes an outer ring 10 disposed over the mouth of a bottle (see col. 2, lines 16-25 of *Kelly*) and a closure assembly 30 (col. 2, lines 36-46). According to *Kelly*, “[the] closure assembly 30 includes a dished plug 32 and a release lever 34, interconnected by a flexible “living” hinge 36 at one edge.

The plug has a circumferential sealing lip 38, which extends downward into the bottle mouth, and a peripheral overhang 40 which engages the top surface of the mouth and acts as a stop (see col. 2, lines 48-53). Clearly the closure assembly 30 of *Kelly* forms a part of the housing. The skilled person would therefore have no reason to consider the teachings of *Kelly* when seeking to improve the fuel pump of *Soyer* so as to achieve applicant's claimed connection piece, absent impermissible hindsight based on applicants' disclosure. *Kelly*, in fact, teaches away from applicant's claimed invention in which the circumferential sealing lip which seals the plug is arranged at the plug. Therefore, *Kelly* also fails to teach or suggest "a plug having ... an integrally formed, circumferential sealing lip which seals the plug against the connecting piece when fuel is conveyed through the fuel pump", as now recited in amended independent claim 1.

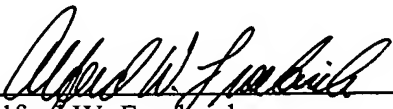
In view of the foregoing, amended independent claim 1 is patentable over the combination of *Soyer* and *Kelly*. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are therefore in order, and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

In view of the patentability of independent claim 1, dependent claims 2-4, as well as new dependent claims 5 and 6 are also patentable over the prior art for the reasons set forth above, as well as for the additional recitations contained therein. New claim 6 is not obvious over *Soyer* in view of *Kelly* because *Kelly* fails to disclose anything about electrical contacts and therefore fails to teach or suggest how a sealing lip should be arranged relative to electrical contacts.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is in condition for allowance. Early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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